



Romford Division

2021 Swarm Collector List

Members who wish to be on the local or the BBKA swarm collector list should let me know. I will need your name, a postcode (not necessarily your own, but near to you) and a mobile phone number, plus a landline number too if you wish. To go on the list you must have passed the BBKA Basic Assessment and be a fully paid up member of Romford Division of EBKA.

If you are a new beekeeper and would like to know how to collect a swarm safely, then let me know. You may be able to join a more experienced beekeeper to 'learn the ropes' when the call comes.

Pat Allen

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Committee Meeting: Wednesday 20th January 2021 7.30pm, via Zoom.

Meeting: Thursday 4th February 2021, 8.00pm, via zoom

Topic: Oops My Bees Have Swarmed

Speakers: The Buckfast Speakers



Happy & safe 2021 to all our members!

Bulk Buys

Just a reminder that I have stepped down as coordinator for Bulk Buys and will not be ordering any more items. The division is in need of a replacement so possibly a member would like to consider the position and offer their support at the AGM.

Lorna Pattle

HAPPY★NEW★YEAR

Romford Division Contacts:

Secretary: **Sue Richardson**

01708 381900 / 07971 957333 ~ susanmrichardson7@gmail.com

Chairman: **Paul Wiltshire**

01277 375454 / 07870 258192 ~ paul.g.wiltshire@btinternet.com

Divisional Voting Member/Trustee: **Jim McNeill**

01708 765898 / 07743 310143 ~ jimandliz44@aol.co.uk

Membership Secretary: **Pat Allen**

01708 220897/07958 938427 ~ pat.allen7@icloud.com

Websites:

www.ebka.org

romfordbeekeepers.wordpress.com

Courses in 2021

We will be running the **Beginners Beekeeping Course**. The course is over half full already as several people carried over their booking from 2020. The theory sessions will be held indoors at Thames Chase if that's possible, or online via Zoom if not. The practical sessions will be in the apiary, socially distanced as appropriate at the time. Booking form is on the website.

It is also intended to run a **Taster Session** in the summer. Details are yet to be confirmed but it will most likely be a weekend day in July or August.

We can run some **'Refresher'** sessions in the summer if members are interested in particular techniques. These will only run if there is sufficient interest, each session will have its own topic and last 2-3 hours. Suggested topics are: Managing Nucs & Mini-Nucs; Changing Comb; Integrated Pest Management; Honey Extraction. All except Honey Extraction will include tips on 'finding the queen'.

If you have a couple of seasons of beekeeping under your belt, it is time for you to take the **BBKA Basic Assessment**. All exams and assessments were cancelled in 2020, but the BBKA will be running them this year. Taking the Basic will improve your beekeeping and boost your confidence – both of which are good for you *and* your bees. The syllabus and application details can be downloaded from the BBKA website. I am willing to run a **Basic Assessment Preparation** session if there are enough members interested in doing this. I am an Assessor for this but I am not allowed to assess Romford Division members, but I can prepare you for it.

Pat Allen

EBKA Romford: Annual General Meeting 14th January 2021

A G E N D A

- 1 Apologies for absence
- 2 Signing of the Minutes of 2020 AGM
- 3 Correspondence relevant to the AGM
- 4 Officers' Reports (*previously emailed*)
- 5 Presentation of 2020 Divisional Accounts
- 6 Elections to Committee **Holder in 2020**

DVM/EBKA Trustee	Jim McNeill
Chairman	Paul Wiltshire
Treasurer	Bob Manning (<i>standing down</i>)
	Nomination: Matt Broughton
Secretary	Sue Richardson
Programme Secretary	Dawn Doyland
Show Secretary	Angela Mander
O/A Wardens:	
Brentwood	John Whittard
Havering	Terry Watson
Hornchurch	Norman McDonald
The Chase	Rob Hyde
Teaching Apiary	Michael Speakman-Bell
Bee Garden Warden	Rob Hyde
Lay Committee:	Liz McNeill (+ 3 vacancies)
- 7 Date & Venue of Next Committee Meeting
- 8 Elections to Other Posts: **Holder in 2020**

President	Terry Watson
Education Officers	Pat Allen, Helen Kingsford (<i>standing down</i>)
Mailing Secretary	Terry Watson
Membership Secretary	Pat Allen
Bulk Buys Secretary	Lorna Pattle (<i>standing down</i>)
Disease Liaison Contacts	Jim McNeill, Paul Wiltshire
Independent Examiner	(<i>tbc</i>)
- 9 Other posts:

Equipment Secretaries	Pádraig Floyd, Norman McDonald, Paul Wiltshire Pat Allen, Robert Hyde
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- 10 Any other business relevant to the AGM
- 11 Date of next AGM: Thursday 13th January 2022 (*tbc*)

(Minutes of this AGM will be reviewed for accuracy at the February members meeting.)

If Heath Robinson had been a Beekeeper - Graham Royale – 3rd December 2020

Hints, Tips, Widgets and Thingymabobs

Graham said that the aims of beekeeping equipment was to keep it simple, save time and add interest. He discussed hives, tools, swarming, cleaning equipment and extracting.

He showed us an amazing array of contraptions he had designed and made from all sorts of recycled materials and at very little or no cost.

He built a beekeepers' shed to look like a bee hive with an area for hive storage. The back of the shed housed a warming cabinet, storage, extractor, worktop, sink unit and even a shower base to make the cleaning of large equipment easier. He had an old fridge (not switched on) in the shed to store jars of honey. Graham made an electrical switch to control a liquid level sensor to prevent the honey from the tank overflowing the bucket, as he said he gets engrossed in something else in his shed and temporarily forgets the flow of honey.

Graham has a bee weather station showing the state of the rocks and what each stage and colour of the rock meant in relation to weather.

We had a very interesting, informative talk and gave a lot of good tips and ideas.

JILLY SPEAKMAN-BELL



January Beekeeping Notes

- Read and learn.
- Plan for the new season (January sales are on).
- Check hives are upright and safe.
- A little fondant over the hole in the crownboard will do no harm.
- If doing oxalic varroa treatment, do it a week or so after the start of a cold spell, but before month end.

Pat Allen